IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-28. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) Method for extracorporeal manipulation, depletion, and/or removal of soluble, suspended components or cellular blood components comprising the following steps:
   a) Optionally separation of the blood into one or more fractions with solid and/or liquid components;
   b) Binding of soluble, suspended, or cellular blood components of the blood to a surface or particle coupled to a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 through 18 wherein the polypeptide comprises at least three components A and at least two components B, wherein each component A is a monomer of a member of the TNF ligand family or a functional fragment and/or a functional variant thereof, and each component B is a peptide linker; and
   c) Optionally separation of the bound soluble, suspended, or cellular blood components of the blood.

29. (Original) Method according to claim 28, wherein before step a) or b) blood is taken from a patient.

30. (Original) Method according to claim 28, wherein after a step b) or c), the thus treated blood or blood fraction is reinjected into a patient.

31. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components A are identical or different.

32. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components A stem from the same organism or different organisms.

33. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components A are selected from the group, consisting of FasL, TRAIL, TNF, CD30L, CD40L, OX40L, RANKL,

TWEAKL, LTalpha, LTbeta, LIGHT, CD27L, 41-BB, 41BBL, GITRL, APRIL, EDA, VEGI, and BAFF.

34. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components B each link together two of the at least three components A.

35. Method according to claim 28, wherein at least one of components B has the amino acid sequence $(GGGS)_3$ or $(GGGS)_4$.

36. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components A and components B form a trimeric protein structure.

37. (New) Method according to claim 36, wherein components A and components B form a homotrimeric protein structure.

38 9. (New) Method according to claim 36, wherein components A and components B form a heterotrimeric protein structure.

39. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components B are identical or different.

40. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein components B stem from the same organism or different organisms.

41. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein the polypeptide has a preferably N-terminal tag sequence, particularly a His tag sequence or a Flag tag sequence.

42. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein the polypeptide has a preferably N-terminal leader peptide sequence.

43. Method according to claim 28, wherein the polypeptide has at least one other component C, which is an antibody fragment or a different protein or peptide, which selectively recognizes a specific target molecule on the cell surface.

44. (New) Method according to claim 43, wherein component C is an antibody fragment from a mammal, particularly of murine or human origin, or a humanized antibody fragment.

45. (New) Method according to claim 43, wherein the antibody fragment can be present in different antibody formats, e.g., as scFv, particularly scFv40.

46. (New-withdrawn) Method according to claim 43, wherein component C is a protein or peptide with specificity for a cell surface molecule, particularly a cytokine receptor, a growth factor receptor, an integrin, or cell adhesion molecule.

47. (New-withdrawn) Method according to claim 46, wherein the cytokine receptor is selected from the group of the TNFR gene family.